

AO 106 (Rev. 7/87) Affidavit for Search Warrant

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

United States District Court  
Southern District of Texas  
FILED

AUG 20 2008

Michael N. Milby, Clerk of Court

In the Matter of the Search of  
(Name, address or brief description of person, property or premises to be searched)  
**An Express Mail Parcel Label #EB765630971US,  
approximately 22" X 16" X 13" addressed to Jean  
Rodriguez, 2915 South 16<sup>th</sup> st., Omaha, N.E.  
68108, bearing a return address of Cindy Mendza,  
5206 Sanset, San Juan, Tx 78589.**

## APPLICATION AND AFFIDAVIT FOR SEARCH WARRANT

CASE NUMBER:

*M-08-5337-M*

I Manuel P. Zavala being duly sworn depose and say:

I am a(n) U. S. Postal Inspector and have reason to believe  
Official Title

That        On the person of or X On the property or premises known as (name, description and/or location)

**An Express Mail Parcel Label #EB765630971US, approximately 22" X 16" X 13" addressed to Jean Rodriguez,  
2915 South 16<sup>th</sup> st., Omaha, N.E. 68108, bearing a return address of Cindy Mendza, 5206 Sanset, San Juan, Tx  
78589.**

in the SOUTHERN District of TEXAS  
there is now concealed a certain person or property, namely (describe the person or property to be seized)

**contraband, narcotics, narcotic paraphernalia or proceeds;**

which IS (state one or more bases for search and seizure set forth under Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure)

**Property that constitutes evidence of the commission of a criminal offense; or, contraband, the fruits of crime, or  
thing otherwise criminally possessed;**

Concerning a violation of Title 21 United States code, Section (s) 841(a)(1), 843(b) and 846,  
853(a), and 881(a)(6)

The facts to support a finding of Probable Cause are as follows:

Continued on the attached sheet and made a part hereof.

X Yes        No

*[Signature]* 8/20/08

*[Signature]*  
Signature of Affiant

Sworn to before me, and subscribed in my presence  
and I find probable cause.

August 20, 2008  
Date

at McAllen, TX  
City and State

Peter E. Ormsby, U. S. Magistrate Judge  
Name and Title of Judicial Officer

*[Signature]*  
Signature of Judicial Officer

**COUNTY OF HIDALGO**

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**STATE OF TEXAS**

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I, Manuel P. Zavala, having been duly sworn, do hereby depose and state:

1. I am a United States Postal Inspector, currently assigned to the Houston Division Office in McAllen, Texas. As part of my duties, I investigate the use of the U. S. Mails to illegally mail and receive controlled substances and drug trafficking instrumentalities, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841 (a) (1), 843 (b), 846, 853 (a), and 881 (a) (6). I have received training in identifying suspect prohibited mailings in Basic Postal Inspector Training as well as in my division office.

2. Investigations by Postal Inspectors and other federal, state and local law enforcement officials indicate that the area of South Texas, sometimes referred to as "the Valley," is a significant crossing point for illegal drugs into the United States of America. The U. S. Postal Service is one of the means used for transporting both the illegal controlled substances and the money used to pay for those illegal controlled substances. Numerous parcels found to contain illegal controlled substances have been mailed from the Texas Rio Grande Valley for delivery in other cities in the United States.

3. From my training and experience, I know that illegal transactions in controlled substances are typically conducted with United States Currency. United States Currency is used to pay for illegal controlled substances because of the readily identifiable value and because of the difficulty in tracing currency transactions. As a result, large quantities of United States Currency are a "tool of the trade" of illegal drug trafficking and the presence of a large quantity of United States Currency is an indicator of drug trafficking activity.

4. The U. S. Postal Inspection Service conducts a continuous drug interdiction program at the McAllen, TX, Processing and Distribution Center. This affidavit is made in support of an application for a federal search warrant to search a United States Express Mail parcel, label #EB765630971US identified on August 19, 2008, described as follows:

Addressee:	Jean Rodriguez 2915 South 16 <sup>th</sup> St. Omaha, NE 68108
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Return Addressee:	Cindy Mendza 5206 Sanset San Juan, TX 78589
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Postmarked:	August 19, 2008
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Weight:	21 Lbs.3.5 Oz.
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Office of Mailing:	San Juan, TX 78589
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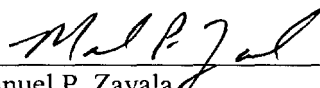
5. B. De La Rosa, Postal Supervisor, San Juan TX Post Office, advised Postal Inspectors that the return address of 5206 Sanset, San Juan, TX is fictitious. Ms. De La Rosa advised that the street name or number does not exist in San Juan, TX.

6. It is the experience of your Affiant, as well as many other police officers engaged in the investigation of narcotic offenses, that the odor of the narcotic escapes from packages containing narcotics and money representing proceeds of narcotics, handled by narcotic dealers, will retain traces of the narcotic. Therefore, the odor of the narcotics in packages and on the currency is many times detectable by narcotic detection canines.

7. On August 20, 2008, the aforementioned subject parcel was exposed to a narcotic detection canine named "AGAR" at the U. S. Postal Inspection Service, McAllen Domicile,

McAllen, TX. D. Garza, Canine Officer, with the U. S. Border Patrol Service, handles "AGAR". "AGAR" is certified by the standards of the U. S. Border Patrol Service Canine Enforcement Program. As a result of "AGAR's" past alerts, there have been numerous drug and drug proceed seizures. "AGAR" conducted an exterior examination of the above-described parcel and strongly alerted to the presence of narcotics in the aforementioned Express Mail parcel.

8. Based on the facts set forth in this Affidavit, your Affiant believes there is probable cause to believe that the aforementioned subject Express Mail parcel contains narcotics, narcotic paraphernalia or proceeds from narcotic trafficking. Your Affiant, therefore, seeks the issuance of a search warrant for the seizure of this parcel, and the contents contained therein and any other evidence, fruits of crime, and instrumentalities, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841 (a) (1), 843 (b), 846, 853(a), and 881 (a) (6).

  
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Manuel P. Zavala  
Postal Inspector

SWORN to and subscribed before me this 20<sup>th</sup> day August 2008.

  
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Peter E. Ormsby  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE